

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 18-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4 remain pending and claims 18-20 are re-presented for consideration in the present application.

Summary of the Official Action

In the Official Action, claims 1, 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0189535 A (Matsumoto) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0201017 (Chen).

Claims 18-20, newly presented in the prior Amendment filed May 17, 2005, were indicated as withdrawn from consideration in the present application, without explanation.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and apparent restriction/election of species requirement respectfully are requested in view of the following remarks.

Re-presentation of Claims 18-20

Claims 18-20 are properly presented for consideration in the present application. Claims 18-20 were newly presented in the prior Amendment filed May 17, 2005. As stated therein, Applicant submits that these claims are directed to the elected species of Figs. 4 and 5. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the apparent restriction/election of species requirement be withdrawn, and that claims 18-20 be examined in the present application.

Perfection of Claim to Priority

Applicant claims priority of filing date based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-201662 (0093070) filed in Japan on July 10, 2002 and Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-251675 (0093387) filed in Japan on August 29, 2002. Applicant submits herewith English translations of these Japanese Patent Applications to perfect Applicant's claim for priority.

Rejection over the Prior Art Traversed

The rejection of the claims over the cited art respectfully is traversed.

The cited Matsumoto '535 publication and the Chen '017 publication are not prior art against the claimed invention. The Matsumoto '535 publication was published October 9, 2003 based on an application filed in the U.S. on November 18, 2002; the Chen '017 publication was published October 14, 2004 based on an application filed in the U.S. on June 18, 2003.

Accordingly, the Matsumoto '535 publication and the Chen '017 publication are removed as prior art against the present application by the submission of the English translations of the Japanese Priority documents JP 2002-201662 and JP 2002-251675.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present Request is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the Application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:CPW/eks

Attachment:

English Translation of JP 2002-201662
English Translation of JP 2002-251675

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